

MAY 17 1960

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Harry's Formally For His Boy Stu

Chicago, May 13 (UPI).—Harry S. Truman today officially joined the "stop Kennedy" drive by endorsing fellow Missourian and political protege, Sen. Stuart Symington, for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

In a news conference announcement which surprised practically nobody, Truman called Symington "the best qualified man," adding:

"He will have no difficulty in carrying the tremendous majority of the electoral votes in the election in November."

Truman scoffed at suggestions that the Wisconsin and West Virginia primary victories had made Sen. John F. Kennedy (D-Mass.) an unstoppable contender for the nomination.

Primaries "aren't worth anything" when it comes to selecting a nominee, the old campaigner said.

A Hint for Stu

Asked if he had any objection to Kennedy, Truman grinned: "None whatsoever. He is a fine young man and I like him. The only thing is he lives in Massachusetts."

Truman thus hinted at a possible Symington argument that the Democratic candidate should come from the nation's Midlands. As for the question of Kennedy's Catholicism, Truman said the issue is dead and "It never belonged there in the first place."

Kennedy said the Symington endorsement was "quite natural."

Symington 'Proud' Of HST Endorsement

Sen. Symington flew into Newark yesterday to beef up his campaign for the Democratic nomination for President in the wake of the indicated bandwagon rush to Sen. Kennedy in New York and New Jersey.

Symington arrived at the Robert Treat Hotel shortly after

former President Truman had come out for him in Chicago. Symington declared himself profoundly grateful.

"I am proud to have his endorsement," said Symington, who disclosed that he talked to Truman, Thursday by phone about the endorsement. "I didn't know it was going to come so soon," the Missouri Senator added.

Symington conceded that Kennedy is far out in front in the Democratic Presidential sweepstakes, but refused to give up. He said he will press his campaign against Kennedy "on my record."

Schedule Stands

The Missouri Senator, who was a guest of New Jersey Gov. Meyner last night at the Executive Mansion, in the New York area for two speeches. Today, he will address the Union Leadership Academy graduation exercises at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, and tonight he will speak at the Rockland County Democratic dinner at Bear Mountain.

Symington, whose mother-in-law, Mrs. Jackson Boyd, died yesterday in Clearwater, Fla., said he will carry out his schedule despite her death, because the body is being shipped north for services Tuesday at Geneseo, N.Y.

On national affairs, Symington said the big issue is "leadership." He said that this was demonstrated by the bungled handling of the U-2 spy plane affair, but added that he hoped the incident wouldn't block progress at the summit meeting next week.